

N 58

the BEAVER

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Caught between the irresistible force and the immovable object.

University lecturers may well refuse to either set or mark exams this summer unless they receive a minimum pay award from the Committee of Vic-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) equivalent to the rise in the cost of living.

On October 15th the governing body of the Association of University Teachers (AUT) voted overwhelmingly, at an emergency council meeting, to recommend that its members refuse to take part in this summer's examinations if, after the Treasury Autumn Statement on public expenditure, the CVCP ignored the Union's pay claims. The AUT is looking for a basic award in the region of 10-15% but would be content simply with 6% to match inflation. The CVCP insists that it doesn't have this amount of money to spare unless Mr. Lawson were to devote more funds to higher education in the Autumn Statement.

Although the AUT says university lecturers are the only group in the public sector not to have received a pay increase this year, this is complicated by a dispute with the CVCP, representing the government, about the terms of the most recent settlement. This was a 23% package which gave a 16% increase to university teachers from December 1986 and a further 7% on 1985 pay levels from March this year. The vice-chancellors have said that this package was intended to cover this year's pay settlement, and are backed up by the Department of Education and Science (DES), but the AUT denies this, further pointing out that it would be inadequate anyway.

If no money is forthcoming then the AUT will ballot its membership on whether or not they would be prepared to "withdraw

from all examination processes". If passed, this resolution will take effect from the 9th January. The AUT has 30,000 members (over 300 at the LSE) - almost 60% of all university teachers belong to the association - and so without their help university administrations freely admit it would be impossible to hold examinations this summer.

Should a full boycott go ahead

the consequences for students would be dire. Without examinations no degrees will be awarded. General Course students may well find their home universities will consider that they have merely wasted a year. Overseas students may find it impossible to raise enough cash for a further trip to Britain to complete their studies when the dispute is settled. Teaching, however, will continue as normal, as will continuous

assessment, so that should the dispute be solved at the eleventh hour exams could be organised as soon as humanly possible. AUT press officer Monica Hicks said that the decision to take industrial action would cause the membership "great anguish" but this must be put aside for the good of future generations of students: the few must suffer for the many.

The Beaver has tried to establish the extent of support that a boycott would command at the LSE. According to local AUT Shop Steward Jane Kent the staff at the LSE are "not overwhelmingly militant" and this was certainly the impression we gained from a random survey conducted on campus. There was little support for the AUT resolution, although Economics Lecturer Nick Barr spoke for many when he said that he believed that the cause was just. Others, like History lecturer Robert Boyce, said they would have supported a milder form of industrial action - for instance a resolution not to mark exam papers until a settlement was reached - but the Beaver did not find one single academic who was prepared to use his students as fodder for the AUT's battle. In the words of Nick Barr, "it would be contrary to our whole *raison d'être* ... I personally could never do anything to harm the students."

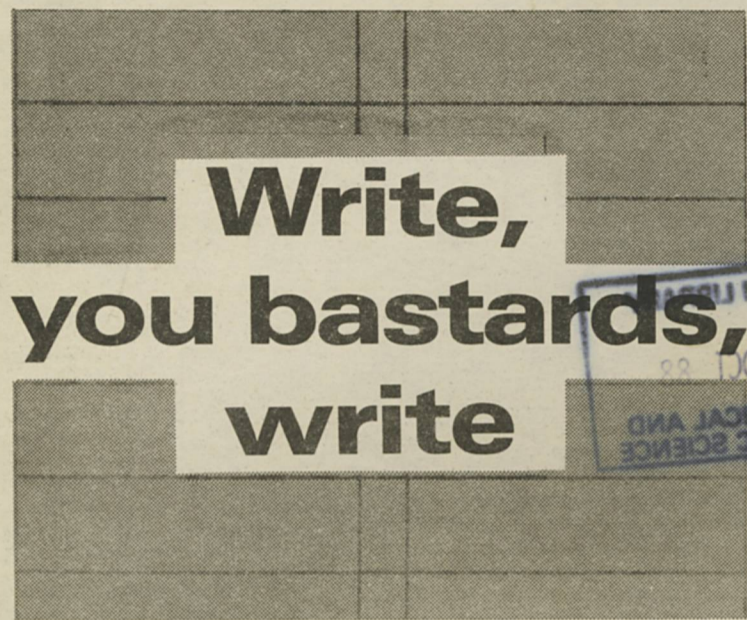
The LSE administration has reacted cautiously to the AUT council's resolution. Director I. G. Patel declined to comment on what steps the administration would take should the proposed industrial action become a reality saying only that he would wait for the result of the ballot.

by Tom Parker.

AUT: Summer Exams May Fall Victim To Pay Row

2 OPINION

Editorial



The LSE is a strange place. Unlike any other university, LSE is fragmented and divided. Therefore, anything that can bring you closer to the centre of activity has to be worthwhile.

The Beaver is probably one of the few examples of an involving activity which brings one into touch with the college. The Union, the School and a large part of the student and academic population both read and contribute to this organ.

At the end of the Michaelmas term, a good proportion of The Beaver editorial staff shall be resigning. This is not due to a lack of confidence in the paper. We do feel that the advances in content and design have moulded The Beaver into one of the best college newspapers in London, and in a very strong position to make an attempt for the Guardian Student Media Awards.

Yet all the hard work could be of little avail. At the present moment in time there are few people willing to step into the shoes of those departing. We need people to train into these positions. The alternative looks bleak. With few people equipped with the necessary skills, it could well be that the tradition established by Paul Klebnikov, of a dynamic *weekly* Beaver may fall into the annals of history. We need you, and we need you now, for the future of The Beaver rests upon your shoulders.

The Beaver should like to condemn the decision by certain members of the Athletic Union to hold an informal ballot on the future of our sports editor, Jeffrey Barman. This vindictive attack seems unsubstantiated, and has caused Mr Barman's resignation from his post. In addition, the AU has, as yet, not appeared with an alternative editor.

The editor of The Beaver would like to apologise for the omission of credits for Andrew Bayley's sports photos, and for the mistakes regarding the half-term playgroup.



Photo: Rob Smith

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The Sim says: "You're wrong Ron!"

Dear Beaver,

You might expect an ex-LSESU NUS Officer to be knowledgeable about NUS funding from Students' Unions. Ron Beadle, on the contrary, appears to know little of such matters, as shown in his letter in last week's Beaver. According to Ron, students "hand over stubs" every year to join NUS! Have you seen people buying NUS cards? Me neither.

In the LSE, as with other colleges, the Students' Union receives a lump sum from an itemised budget presented to the school to pay for the membership of NUS of every student at the school. As found by St Andrews and Imperial College, by withdrawing from NUS this lump sum was omitted from the budget and so lost altogether.

Furthermore, if NUS supply such a bad service as Ron Beadle implies, why have over 200 col-

leges joined NUS in the last two years? And if this government felt, like Ron, that NUS does not actively represent student interests it would not feel it necessary to undermine NUS's membership, by introducing a voluntary system, nor to investigate NUS's actions within Students' Unions by setting up the Department of Education and Science Review.

Think about it next time Ron!

Yours,

Simon Hix
Present NUS and External
Affairs Officer.

Only just managing . . .

Dear Beaver,

An attempt to raise the issue of Union manager has now been made on two occasions - both times the General Secretary has refused to discuss the matter. We have been informed that the General Secretary has asked The Beaver not to print a letter that we previously wrote on the grounds that it was incorrect on constitutional matters. There are discrepancies between the constitution and the agreement signed in September 1984 concerning staff employment and confidentiality - this agreement has never been ratified by the Union, and we feel that is therefore incorrect, and possibly illegal for such an agreement to be used as a basis for discussion (or non-discussion) within the Union meeting. It is also wrong for the General Secretary to attempt to prevent the Beaver from publishing whatever it wishes.

The issue of Union manager is not as yet a staffing issue covered by confidentiality, as the staff post does not exist; we should therefore be allowed to discuss the matter at a Union meeting, and the General Secretary should be prepared to join in such discussion.

Yours,

Steve King Ron Beadle
Babs Band

Mehmet Mouthing Manure??

Dear Beaver,

Thank you for a fair and humorous report on the UGM of 3 October. I believe Mr Gavin Gray deserves congratulations for his light-hearted but factual record of events, even if I didn't get a mention. I hope the report of this week's farce will be just as good! There's just one point I'd like to raise: has Amanda Hart got nits, or is someone stroking her hair? The photo in this week's issue isn't clear on this point.

Now to the serious business of today's meeting. For the second year in a row around 200 students in the union have "banned" AIESEC. Do not let the sabbaticals (the rabble rousers) forget that members of AIESEC pay union fees, and it is the union policy to deny them the choice over how their money is spent. Would the union allow AIESEC members to

Right to reply

Dear Beaver,

The item printed on the playgroup in this week's Beaver is quite different from the notice we provided you with. We are very unhappy with the changes made for a number of reasons.

1. The item was placed inappropriately in the Societies Corner.

2. Important information was missed out, for example, who can use the playgroup, ages of children, where the playgroup is held, when it is held, etc.

3. It is unacceptable to single out individual children in this manner. Children should not be subjects of gossip in the Beaver and we would expect that you will not allow this to happen again.

The notices of services and events that the Student Welfare Office submits to the Beaver are short, factual and straightforward. It should not be necessary to make alterations to these. Should you wish to make any changes we request that you contact us in advance.

We regret the need to write to you with this complaint, and hope that Welfare Services will be advertised appropriately and sensitively in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Judith Patterson
Welfare Assistant

All that Jazz . . .

Dear Sir

I feel your correspondent writing about Rap and Jazz music is being rather selective with the facts. Whilst aware that white culture has been guilty of commercialising and trivialising Jazz music it's worth pointing out that Miles Davis didn't become the highest earning black musician in the 1960s because blacks bought his records, most were bought by white audiences. Many musicians will be the first to say that they get little work or public acceptance in America, that's why so many of them tour the European festivals, or play in places like Japan where their music is appreciated by larger audiences.

Your correspondent is implicitly suggesting the hoary old chestnut that whites cannot play real jazz. Tell that to the likes of Lee Konitz, Stan Getz, Scott Hamilton or any of the many other fine white players. The trouble stems from people making clear-cut definitions, when much of the ill treatment of all musicians is by promoters, record companies and the narrow mindedness of those who would like to make a political point.

The example of Humphrey Lyttleton is timely as he has begun playing 1920s New Orleans music to 1950s British audiences in the "trad" boom. Today we have the same musical reactionaries churning out 1950s Monk or Blakeley to 1980s British audiences, whilst those at the forefront of this ever changing style are overlooked.

Yours Faithfully

George Paton

Praise at last

Dear Beaver,

Another winner! Last week's Beaver was brilliant, especially the charismatic front cover. I would be willing to sell my house and all my possessions just to ensure your continual survival. Keep it up.

Yours, Gavin Gray

Sport for All?

This week, Kings college has put forward a tentative offer to share the sports ground at New Malden with LSE's Athletic Union. The reaction to this proposal has been mixed. The AU's initial response was to oppose the idea, but there is a rumour that the possible gift of £1 million may persuade them otherwise.

Two weeks ago, Kings College sold their sports ground at Mitcham. The Beaver has been informed that the 50 acres were sold for £14.3 million. These grounds were composed of 35 acres leased to Kings by the Christian Parochial Foundation (CPF), and 17 acres owned by the college in the name of the War Memorial Trust. When, in spring of this year, the CPF decided to sell off its lands to an as yet unnamed property developer, Kings agreed to the sale in principle, despite the fact that they had no alternative sports ground in mind to replace the Mitcham fields. In view of this, the college Secretary, Mr William Slade, managed to negotiate a reprieve for one year, such that half the grounds were sold, with the remainder available for use by Kings until 31 September 1989.

Woodies", a patch of wasteland, and at the opposite end is the ground known as Pearl Land, belonging to Pearl Insurance. Pearl Land has been on sale for a considerable length of time. Kings have put in a bid, but as they are not the only offers, no firm conclusion can be drawn as regards the sale. They are, however, reported to be optimistic.

Serious problems may arise if the King's bid is successful. Foremost is that of the administration of two grounds, separated by the LSE fields. Kings' suggested solution is the merging of the three fields. This would result in an area totalling some fifty acres.

The benefits for Kings are obvious. Fifty acres would give sufficient room for both themselves and City University to train and play. But does the package seem attractive to LSE?

Darren Wallis of LSE's AU revealed that the New Malden pitches were in dire need of a new drainage system. There has also been an ever-increasing demand for an all-weather pitch for hockey, which would greatly enhance the certainty of matches. LSE itself cannot afford such an

ated with such an agreement.

Mr Woodworth notes the problem which he foresees over the day-to-day running of the fields, and is especially concerned with the staffing. The Students' Union at King's have not denied the existence of such problems. Mr Woodhouse considers the safety and quality of the grounds as paramount, and he suggests that those concerns will be jeopardized by a merger with King's College.

The Bursar, Mr Shorthouse, said that if a deal were to proceed, LSE's teams would stand to benefit from it. He suggests that in light of the fact that LSE's indoor facilities are totally inappropriate, and that Kings is considering the building of a new sports hall, part of the new spirit of co-operation would be that LSE AU would get free use of these facilities. But he added that the issues must be considered very carefully, and advocated the use of a working party in order to look into the possibilities of LSE long-term investments.

The idea of a joint arrangement with Kings might appear more attractive in the light of the financial situation facing both LSE and



Photo: Joanne Olsen

Student Elections: Nominations Open

Nominations for the November Elections opened last Thursday with some 73 vacant positions on School committees and SU delegations to be filled. The most prestigious post available is definitely a place on the **Court of Governors** (5 vacancies). This committee, a mixture of MPs, big business bosses, academics and aristocrats, takes all the top-level political decisions at the LSE (eg. Divestment, Housing association). As a Governor you are also entitled to look smart, use the Senior Common Room and give statements to the Beaver. The second most important committee which, unlike the Court, is only concerned with internal issues is the **General Purposes Committee** (4 vac.)

The other committees are listed below with available places in brackets.

- Catering Committee (4)
- Safety Committee (3)
- Student Support Committee (2)
- Accommodation Committee (4)
- Health Committee (4)
- Careers Committee (9) - this is the one to go for! Only one tenth of the votes is needed to improve your CV.
- Building Committee (2)
- Rules and Regulations Committee (3)
- Welfare of Overseas Students Committee (2)
- Library Committee (2)
- Publications Committee (2)

Additionally the delegations for the NUS National and NUS London Winter Conferences, and for the ULU General Council (7 places each), have to be elected. There are also 4 places on the NUS Womens Conference delegation and last, but not least, the Executive is looking for a new Postgraduate Officer.

If you are genuinely interested in representing LSE students on any of these committees then PLEASE stand in the elections. All you need to do is fill out a nomination form (available from E297) and get two friends to propose and second you. If you want to stand as a candidate representing a national political party then you have to get permission from their LSE student organisation, otherwise you have to think of up to 6 words to precisely describe yourself (past descriptions included: "Funky Bitchy Sex Machine", "Free Speech", "Wessex National Party", "Monster Alliance" as well as the more traditional "Independent", a definite vote-catcher). If you think you can do better under an assumed name then put your real name in brackets and think up an imaginative pseudonym (last year a Labour sabbatical run as "Honeymonster"). **Nominations close at 12 noon on Thursday 27th October.**

Photo: Andrew Bayley



Obviously, this has left King's with inadequate facilities for their seven football, five hockey and three rugby teams. In addition, King's College have an agreement with City university, who also make use of these now limited resources.

Moreover, the prospect of finding new grounds in a year appears rather daunting. Yet King's Assistant Secretary, Mr Peter Gilbert, was confident that a solution to the problem would be found in the near future. He claims that the college has been looking into alternative solutions which will eventually provide King's with its own fields. In addition, plans for indoor facilities have been drawn-up, and the site for such a building has been selected.

In pursuit of a solution, King's has expressed an interest in buying up two areas of land belonging to the New Malden ground: at one end is "The

investment, as the money would have to come from hard-pressed school funds. But it has been suggested that some of the revenue which King's raised through the sale of their grounds could be used in the improvement of the New Malden grounds for the common good, if LSE consent to a merger. A crucial factor may be the possibility, revealed by the LSE AU, of a gift of £1 million from Kings to LSE if the deal were to go through.

As both the groundsmen at New Malden, Mr Brian Woodworth, and the LSE Bursar, Mr Shorthouse, stress, the situation regarding the merger is very delicate, and calls for rational and realistic consideration. Whatever happens, says Mr Woodworth, the LSE needs to make sure that it doesn't "get its face pushed out of joint" by a deal with King's College. He further urges LSE to hold onto its ownership rights, and to realise the hazards which may be associ-

Kings, common to most universities around the country. Substantial cuts in higher education since 1981 have forced many universities to undertake a degree of re-organisation and rationalisation, and this has applied to athletics as to other areas of expenditure. Hence an opportunity to enlarge, modernise and improve the New Malden grounds - even if these have to be shared - using proceeds from the sale of the Kings grounds, may find favour in some quarters at LSE.

It is important to stress that no concrete decisions have yet been taken, and negotiations are still at a very early stage. The only certainty is that Kings have made a bid for the Pearl land. Mr Shorthouse assured The Beaver, however, that whatever decision is taken, priority will be given to the interests of LSE sports teams.

by Liesbeth v. Ewyk

Freedom Association part 2

Last week the Beaver published an article concerning the Freedom Association and its student wing, the Campaign for Student Freedom (CSF), which organised a conference at which a questionnaire was circulated inquiring into student "subversives". The article speculated, "it may only be a matter of time before they do so [i.e. organise] at LSE." The CSF has now established a group here.

There is evidently internecine strife amongst the various pressure groups concerned about, "the iniquitous student union closed shop". The CSF has identified Douglas Smith, a member of the Committee for Free Britain, as the

instigator of this questionnaire, but has not taken any particular action. Beaver sources report that Smith has persistently been trying to wreck the work of the CSF.

Regarding the general activities of the CSF, its organiser Robert Chambers, admitted that it collected information about student union political societies, but denied having extensive files on particular "subversives". He added, concerning the conference held last month at the LSE, "It was by invitation only" and refused to divulge any details about the proceedings.

The Beaver would like to contact any members of the Campaign for Student Freedom studying at the LSE
by Gavin Gray

4 NEWS

The Reddin Affair Continued

Last Monday General Course Director Mike Reddin met with 'the top man' at Vienna Housing Unlimited, the agency responsible for the difficulties with the housing scheme designed for General Course Students, as he finally got to the source of the problem. There were, however, no easy solutions as both sides made demands that the other could not agree to.

As Reddin pushes the agency, which allegedly failed to fulfil its contract, to refund the difference from the reduced rent (last estimated at £8000) he is also demanding the delivery of the amenities, such as bureaux, desks and shower curtains, that many of the flats still lack.

The agency has currently promised nothing and the meeting ended a little warily as both sides threatened to consult with, and involve, their lawyers.

Students involved in the scheme, though, seem to be fairing better than their benefactor as the following individual scenarios show.

David Desser

David Desser, a general course student from Brandeis University, saw the problem with the housing scheme as one of "a blatant breach of contract." He had replied to an offer for a two bedroom, four person flat with fully equipped and furnished kitchen, living room and bath. Instead, he found himself sharing a flat with nine other students for £75 a week which, he found out, previous tenants had used to house seven at £55 per week. Even the landlady admitted to him that "the place has only got hot water for five."

Desser blames LSE officials, not Reddin, for the problem, criticizing them for being "foolish enough to put down a full deposit on a contract that clearly wasn't being met." Reddin, he emphasized, "bore the brunt of the

pressure. He was very upfront with us and really stuck his neck out for us... He was not in an enviable position, but he delivered."

Desser now resides in a Fitzroy St flat for a mere £23 per week.

Barry Shrem

At the end of last Wednesday's meeting with Reddin Barry Shrem breathed a sigh of relief announcing, "I'm gone". Shrem, whose room consisted of two beds six inches apart in an unclean, unkept flat left the scheme as soon as he found he would be reimbursed the full amount of his deposit and rent.

Up until the meeting Shrem was extremely unhappy with the arrangement. "It seemed," he noted, "that the LSE wasn't interested in the welfare of the students... They had our money and wanted to hold us to it [the contract]". He immediately accepted an offer for a place in Carr Saunders that his parents had received last week in the States.

Robert Strent

Robert Strent, originally in one of the overcrowded flats of ten, has remained in the scheme choosing to move to another flat with more room. His original accommodation he described as a "nice place, but overcrowded with broken furniture, no dressers, no desks and no phone. Everyone got along but nobody was really happy with the situation as it was."

He felt that the apartment was "way off the mark" according to the original contract and for £75 per week was "utterly ludicrous". Strent thinks the compromise has worked out well but notes that his present flat is now under-occupied. Although the people in his flat are looking for potential housemates he says its "Mike [Reddin] who is committed to fill the flats to whatever level of occupancy" is needed after the original students in the scheme have decided whether or not to stay. Any takers?

Jonathon Weiss

Jonathon Weiss has also decided to stick it out with the scheme despite a number of unresolved problems. "It sounds like we're your typical spoiled American kids but," he emphasized, "we were definitely misled." Although he "can live with a few hardships" he felt the original arrangement constituted an unsatisfactory attempt to fulfill the contract.

Currently he is badgering the supervisor to remedy a host of inconveniences but on the whole he feels "we're happy with our place and" he adds, "we may even stay past Christmas." Mike Reddin, Weiss asserts, "has done a commendable job with the problem he inherited."

Robin Pollini

Robin Pollini, who made do for her first two weeks in a storage closet converted into a bedroom, was one of the first students who convinced Reddin that he could not hold them to the original contract. Robin, one of the few in her flat who immediately paid the full amount due, was held to the scheme while her roommates, who had not yet paid their rent, decided to move out.

It was situations like these that convinced Reddin that he must give those students who wished to leave a full refund. As he said to Pollini, "I can't make you a victim because you were responsible enough to pay your rent." Pollini took advantage of the offer and moved out to a less expensive, more agreeable accommodation with her other flatmates



Photo: Joanne Olsen

Alright for some - Vienna Housing Unlimited operate from this building.

Why YOU should run in the elections.

One reason is this: "Each candidate shall receive free of charge from the Union 5 posters and 500 leaflets" (electoral regulations). Don't get the wrong idea. I'm not proposing that anybody should stand just for this pathetically small material gain but think a little bit further... what happens when several candidates form an alliance? Where do most political parties get their poster supply for the rest of the year from?...

Even worse is the 'Prestige Factor'. Political organisations undoubtedly gain in prestige if their candidates get elected, but unfortunately they usually value this prestige factor higher than the

actual attendance record of their elected candidates.

As a combination of these factors the student representatives on the committees are often uninformed, uninformed and unknowledgable (if they bother to turn up at all) and mainly interested in moving up the ranks in their parties. It must be obvious to any neutral observer that this system really doesn't represent student views very well and this is why it is important that genuinely interested students reclaim our union from the political hacks. Please stand in the elections!

Ian Fab

Good Pay for Typists

The Beaver needs typists. If you have a couple of hours to spare on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons, come along and earn some (much-needed) cash and have a sneak preview of The Beaver in the process! Anyone interested should see Jon, Mark or Julian in Room E205 (above The Cafe).

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Photo: Rob Smith

With Grave Apologies To Kafka

It was lunchtime when the Beaver Editors arrived. Houghton Street was deep in copies of The Next Step and Socialist Worker. The Old Castle was hidden, veiled in a mist of delusion, hypocrisy and student subversives, nor was there even a glimmer of intelligence to suggest that a Castle was there.

Almost at once the General Secretary, Amanda H., spoke. Last week the land surveyor, Ron Beadle, had asked a question concerning the possible appointment of a union manager. This belonged to the ASC, not the UGM. When, and

Castle-for once I have been proved wrong: the Returning Officer announced that the elections will be held on recycled paper, and we have no stocks of red paper. Where can this stop? The union agendas were printed on recycled paper. *Who knows, the Beaver might one day be printed on recycled paper...* Half way through questions to officers, there was in Richard F.'s words, "a serious move to next business." Unheard of in the history of the Castle and it could only be dealt with using the chair's unbounded knowledge of the constitution and

AT THE UNION

only when, "a decision has been taken" will it belong to the UGM. *Now a little reserved, something overtly political.* We in the Castle condemn the government's decision to outlaw television and radio interviews with Sinn Fein. The land surveyor put in his pleas again: the ASC has authority over existing appointments, not new appointments. His pleas were temporarily cast aside: the Castle has made up its mind. Next the Senior treasurer, Phil D., reported a "very positive" meeting with the Grauniad concerning possible sponsorship for a series of debates. Jason R. said nothing particularly interesting. *Now, for once, the Castle was threatened.* No explanation was forthcoming about the overpricing of ringbinders in the union shop. Even the omnipotent NSSO was not at hand.

When union offices stand up and say, "Last year the union resolved XYZ but..." you can usually be sure that they are about to propose something totally contrary to union policy. Praise the

union procedure.

Surprise surprise, an emergency motion. Francis C is of the Castle - he may soon be Castellan. He spoke to suspend standing orders to discuss a motion relating various aspects of the freedom issue including GCHQ, the Poll tax and Northern Ireland. The UGM agreed to discuss - these days the Tories cannot even agree among themselves whether to have a count or not. Paul Mehmet, the thinking Lesbian's dildo, spluttering, "this is a waste of time". Justin M., proposing the motion, added little more than confusion, yet shouting over the uproar, finished with a resounding, "The Tories are hypocrites. They are the enemies of individual freedom and collective freedom." At this point, Babs B., Social Secretary two years ago, asked a question relating these issues to the question of individual membership of NUS. Justin M. replied, "I'm sick about all this shit about NUS". The contradictions are manifold and until they are exposed we will all feel

this way.

Simon D. opposed. His speech was laconic but, concentrating on the question of the IRA, failed to pack any punches or to address the freedom question in the manner that it was put forward. Phil D. seconded the motion. A fighting speech worthy of an official of the Castle. At times nearly shouted down, yet the Castle is seemingly all-powerful, "It goes beyond democracy: it's vindictive." And then pointing to the right, "They're not the protectors of democracy."

Now a little calm. John McG. provided the second discourse against the motion. Again, like Simon D., he was a paragon of clarity but failed to reconcile the contradictions. By now the serious debate was over, a Labour first-time speaker aiding this by protesting at the gross abuse of human rights: Sinn Fein politicians are no longer allowed to speak in public about drains. That's it folks: drains. From now on it was all clichés: "Freedom", "Northern Ireland", "NUS", "Freedom of choice", "Vicious Tory attacks" etc. Even Francis C., summing up exuberantly, "We are a brilliant, democratic union" was powerless. I don't think this last remark convinced many people, including the Castellans of the Castle. Amendment defeated, motion passed, now the important part.

The Land Surveyor's assistants stood on the fringes. Last week someone had been telling lies about Tom K., for without having done anything wrong, he was arrested. Accused of guilt and guilty of sin, yours truly suspended standing orders. Ben G., the Beaver editor made a passionate speech; for a second our fate hang in the balance. Now, however, the Castle has ratified the Beaver editors and has to that extent diminished its own powers. **You have been warned.**

One of the main defects of the UGM is the lack of any coherent opposition to the "socialist consensus". LSE Conservatives have only an emotional opposition to the NUS and have not explored the practical consequences of LSE disaffiliating. All union services would have to be made excludable: a bouncer would have to be employed to exclude non-members from the Three Tuns; membership cards would have to be checked in the shop and the cafe. The debate should not be about metaphysics, but whether the greater freedom of choice outweighs the inefficiency. This is basic economic theory. The UGM will not be an effective forum for debate until there is an opposition party with something coherent and positive to contribute.

One last thought: "On the surface is the intelligible lie, underneath is the unintelligible truth."

by Gavin Gray

Photo: Rob Smith



The societies event of the week has got to be the Wine Society's special tasting of Iberian wines. The Beaver staff made a special appearance and duly discussed the relative values of full bouquets, harsh bodies and interesting sediment. There was wine, port and sherry in abundance, as well as beer from the German Society which couldn't organize a piss-up in a brewery. Better luck next time Fabian. Applause to the Frogsoc, for the popcorn and the couscous. Rumours have been reaching E205 about a Stavros Escape Committee. All Beaver hacks interested in getting in contact with the organizers for possible plans to help Stavros V.S. Makris escape from the Greek army and return to this page (those not interested will be doing the community a favour by staying away - Ed) should contact Paul Mehmet and the Greek Embassy. For the last time, will all belligerent societies PLEASE hand in their forms. The ultimatum from Senior Treasurer, Phil Davis in E204 is: No forms, No budget.

Bastard Brass and the Jazz-mongers, allegedly LSE's number one (and only...) Jazz outfit, are looking for a tenor saxophonist, a trombonist, and maybe a trumpet player. Previous band experience would be nice but not absolutely necessary if commitment to this hot and happening band is shown. Contact Peter on 607-7727 or 405-7686 ext. 3139.

The **Mature Student Society** is desperately looking for someone to help run the MSS this year, otherwise it will die! (sounds like the Beaver). Please contact Shona Morrison via the pigeon holes in A219 (Webb Room) and help this society survive.

The **LSE Pakistan Society** meets on Monday the 24th from 5-7 pm in A85. Expect some superb food. Free to members while non-members pay £1.

The **Psychology Society** is holding a lecture on the "Psychological aspects of cannabis use". An issue that should be of great interest to a minute section of LSE students. Douglas Mathers will speak on the subject. This Tuesday the 25th in S318 at 6:30. All welcome.

SOCIETIES CORNER

By Katherine Penaloza

The **Italian Society** would like to announce that Italian newspapers such as *Gazzetta Della Repubblica* and *Corriere Della Sera* are now available in the Shaw Library. P.S. Alex Lasagna, I'm still waiting for the flowers after the spectacular rise of inquiries on that Lasagna charm.

Amidst wild rumours of some star attractions, the **Drama Society** is still talent scouting for an actor to play the Narrator/Lewis Carroll in this term's production, *Alice in Wonderland*, to be performed on Dec. 1st and 2nd. Experience desired, although a stammering Oxbridge accent is even more desirable. See Tom "the mad cyclist" in C018 at 4pm this Wednesday the 26th.

To all budding directors and stage managers, *prick up your ears* as the **Drama Society** is looking for people to help backstage in this term's production of *Joe Orton's Loot*. A competent stage manager is needed and anyone interested in getting involved behind the scenes should get hold of Jennifer or leave a message on the drama notice board. Meanwhile, to all budding thespians: drama workshops are continuing on Wednesdays in C018 at 3pm.

The **Lesbian and Gay Society** will meet this Thursday, the 27th at 6pm in room A506. An informal discussion will be held followed by a trip to a pub.

As an honorary member of the **Jewish Society**, I highly recommend more funds so that they can put some smoked salmon on their cream cheese bagels, which are available at their Tuesday meetings from 1-2 pm in A160. Oh! hopefully they'll hold more champagne parties as well. On Oct. 25, the **Jewish Society** is holding an *Israel Election Special* as Israelis go to the polls on Nov. 1. Larry Shulman from the U.J.S. will talk about the issues, choices and complications they face. It's Tuesday in the Vera Anstey room 1-2 pm.

On Wednesday the 26th, the **LSE Chaplaincy Open Afternoon** is holding a talk on "The Lost Feminine and the Mystery of Woman". Wendy Robinson, psychoanalyst and author, will speak on this fascinating subject.

Once again, the **Overseas Students' Forum** meets this Wednesday, 1 pm in A85. Selection of candidates for the forthcoming SU elections will take place.

The best news of all this week has got to be the return of the **Lunch Hour Concerts in the Shaw Library**. To all newcomers to the LSE, the concerts feature top musicians for free in the genteel environs of the Shaw library. This Tuesday the 25th, Martino Tirimo, pianist extraordinaire, will be giving a recital of Schubert, Bartok, Chopin and Liszt. Go up to the Shaw at 1 pm for a nice catnap and culture.

The **Talking Newspaper Open Committee** meets this Wednesday the 26th, at 1:30 pm in the Welfare office E294. Anybody interested in reading or getting involved, please come along.

The **Environment Forum** now meets on Tuesday and Wednesday each week between 1-2 pm in S421. On Monday the 24th *Loretta Scott* will speak on *Citizen Diplomacy for Environmental Action*. There will also be a special report on last week's Findhorn conference. On Nov. 1, Jonathan Porritt, director of Friends of the Earth, will speak on "The Green Challenge".

The **LSE Amnesty International group** holds a letterwriting stall every Friday in the Quad. From 10 am to 4:30 pm. Please write a letter for prisoners of conscience and people facing the death penalty or torture.

6 FEATURES

The politics of party

The essential differences between the two major party conferences can be distilled into a tale of two fringe meetings.

At Blackpool a cramped, crowded room heckled and cheered as Labour's impressive shadow spokesman on the environment, Jack Cunningham clashed head on with Tottenham's very splendid MP, Bernie Grant. In question was the poll tax; to pay – as Cunningham intended, no matter what – or not to pay – as Grant declared, come what may.

Topped with a sprinkling of Militant Scousers and a thick spread of Glaswegian accents, the meeting was Labour at its fiery and energetic best and doubtless, exactly the sort of showdown the party's sharp-suited image makers want to hide.

by his chairman for a speech it was a "rare honour and privilege" to hear.

Conservative sycophancy at these occasions is legendary and can be so great that even Tory-leaning hacks have been heard to mutter, "it makes me feel sick".

Some even refused to come into the hall to hear Thatcher's speech on the final day. They stayed instead in the safety of the press room watching the television coverage which picked up the Prime Minister's attempt to control her enraptured audience during the 9 minute 35 second standing ovation.

"Please sit down, sit down, sit, sit," she told them. "She's talking to them like they are a dog," whispered the man from the *Liverpool Daily Post*.

For the people who travel round all the conferences, Labour's is the clear favourite.

constituency delegates, by turns chanting Todd's name and snarling at opponents put you in mind of the LSE UGM's which are, after all, the best free entertainment you'll get in London. You half expected the paper planes to fly from the galleries.

But by some typically Labourish procedural absurdity, defence was crammed between several different debates all happening at the same time, so you had a delegate talking rationally about a single European market sandwiched be-

Carlisle, as "the man who should be leading his country under the old name of Rhodesia", told of the international communist plot to gain a belt across the north of Africa, drive a pincer movement down the east and west sides before entrenching in the heartlands of mineral rich southern Africa.

The Westminster model of democracy was foisted by the metropolitan countries upon Africans who simply didn't understand it, said Smith. "We all know what one-man, one vote means in Africa. It means one-man, one-vote once." Africans don't believe in democracy. "They think that

nes and Filofaxes. Brighton was THE place for cellnet phones. There were probably more per square foot than anywhere else in the world. Labour just about shaded it on the Filofaxes.

Tory men have always worn suits and purchased bottles of chilled Laurent Perrier at the conference hotel bars. You'll find a few more pints of bitter at the Labour bars but the men are all beginning to appear in smart suits. The MP, like Falkirk West's Dennis Canaven, who rolls up to the rostrum dressed in cords and a casual shirt, is an increasing oddity.

The youngish women are starting to look and sound the same too. Tory women used to be a blue-rinse joke. That's way out of date now. There are plenty of 30-40 year old Thatcherite women, power-dressed in designer suits, striding around assertively and frightening the hell out of the men.

One such woman, Sharon Spiers, leads the Tories' own version of Militant. It's called the Charter Movement, it organises round a paper, Charter News, and it campaigns for democratic rights within the party.

It wants to see more women MPs, it wants to see the chairman of the party elected by the membership and it wants to open up the conference floor to more democratic debate. It's all a thoroughly un-Conservative prospect.

There are always a lot more women at a Tory conference than at Labour (say about 40% compared to 20%), which may surprise people who thought Labour prided itself on being the "pro-feminist" party.

But, unsurprisingly, there are always a lot more blacks at

"Young Conservatives today are all clones," sighed a Tory trade unionist of the old-fashioned pragmatic school.

once you've got power, if you let someone else take it away, well, that's just unintelligent."

It wasn't so much Smith, skilled if slightly raving, who was offensive. It was his audience who cheered anyone who proclaimed himself "unashamedly pro-South African", loved the bulldog who sought assurances that the "scum" would not be allowed to take over in SA, and roared approval at Terry Dicks when he condemned British aid to tinpot African dictatorships.



Maggie Scammell on the conference circuit compares the merits of Blackpool and Brighton

At the Brighton fringe, the community charge – "never call it the poll tax" – was an infinitely more refined affair.

Tories paid £5 a head for a plate of ploughman's, salad and a glass of wine before the much-

Labour's communications chiefs have obviously decided that heated exchange is bad for the party's "compassionate rose" corporate image.

underrated and parson-like John Selwyn Gummer delivered a witty, after-lunch sally on the virtues of the community charge, and a scathing dismissal of Labour's two tax alternative.

And while Cunningham emerged from his meeting bristling under the hostile barrage, Gummer was thanked profoundly

A Labour conference is a bit like the admiral's comment about warfare; long periods of boredom interrupted by brief bursts of bedlam. It's livelier and more unpredictable and in the words the *FT*'s superb Peter Riddell, it's about "the raw meat of politics".

In truth, there wasn't much raw meat on the conference floor at Blackpool, save perhaps for the poll tax and defence debates and a short magnificent speech from Tony Benn. Labour's communications chiefs have obviously decided that heated exchange is bad for the party's "compassionate rose" corporate image.

And had it not been for Ron Todd, the whole thing would have been a very dull and thornless affair. They got the compulsory standing ovation for Kinnock's endless hour-long content-free speech and they even managed to schedule potentially embarrassing motions, like the repeal of Clause 28 and Black sections, at times when the BBC suspended live coverage.

Labourites may sneer at the cringeing Tory conferences but their leaders are trying their best to follow suit.

Defence, the unexpected trial of strength between Ron and Neil, brought out the irresponsible best and worst of Labour. Left wing

tween the nuclear heavyweights Healey and Todd.

No such confusion sullies the Conservative conferences where there are no debates or votes of significance. The faithful are trooped in to worship. Every ministerial speech is followed by a few words of thanks from the chairman and the votes, such as they are, are taken while the hall is rapidly disgorging the Tory multitude into the conference centre watering holes.

The only heckling of the week was reserved for the Judas Ted Heath, the only murmur of discontent was over the absence of hanging, and the only real debate was on Sunday trading.

All this lack of passion is no bad thing, however. In the first place it means that you can sleep off the inevitable conference hangover during Tory debates, safe in the knowledge that you're missing nothing.

In the second place there is little so loathsome as an impassioned Tory. Besides hanging, the place for passion in Brighton was the Old Ship Hotel ballroom where Paganini once stroked his violin and where the Monday Club cheered to the tune of Ian Smith.

Smith, introduced by MP John

Labour. I think I only counted about half a dozen black faces at the Brighton conference centre and it seemed that every single one was called to speak.

Contributions from the floor are vetted in advance at the Tory conference – an exercise in advance risk management Labour would probably like to copy – and it's a useful tool to create the impression of broad-based support.

In another way the Tories are becoming more like Labour. You can't enter a Labour conference without running the gauntlet of a thousand leaflet pedlars and paper-sellers. In bygone years the Tories were largely leaflet-free. No more. As the fringe has become increasingly vigorous so too have the leafletters, advertising a myriad worthy causes and meetings. An old hand's tip is not to take anything unless it has a blank page for writing on.

The Tories are becoming more political but old traditions die hard. A Tory fringe is still characterised by the glass of wine as you enter.

An LSE lecturer, spotted at Brighton, summed it up when asked how he had enjoyed the conference. "I thought it was rather good," he smiled. "I had two splendid dinners."



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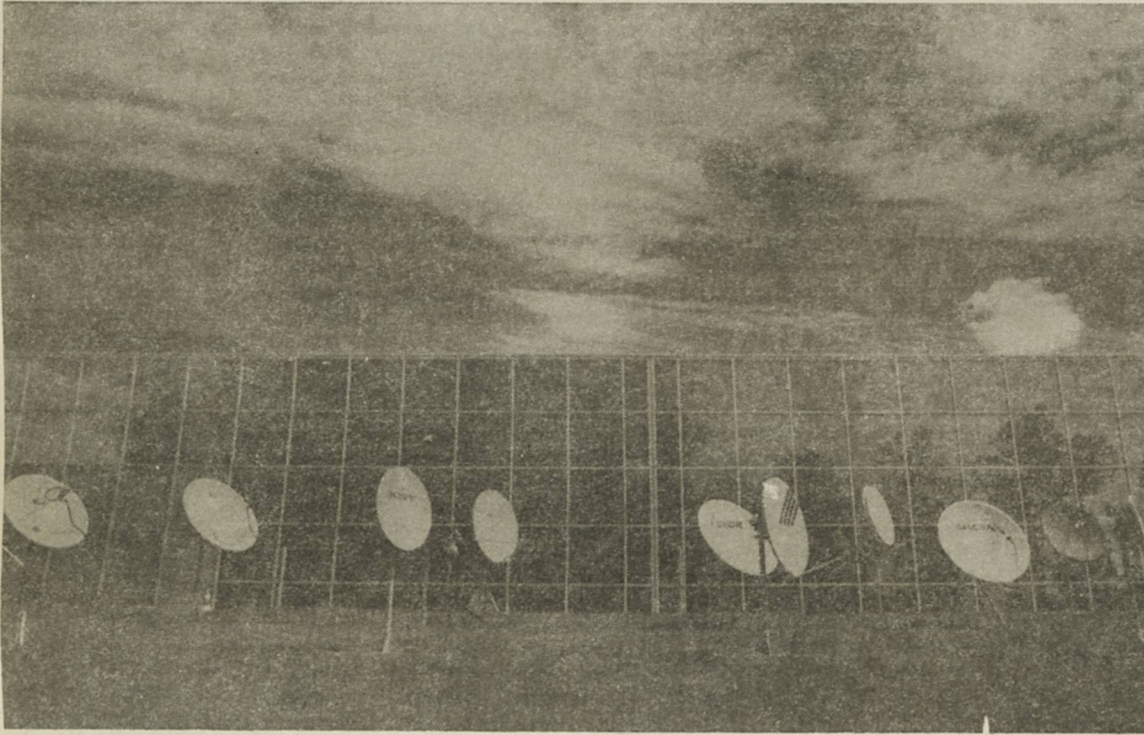
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Privatisation and the German Media

Tim Weber looks at the changes in West German media, as private broadcasting emerges from its initial growing pains.



As pirate radio stations emerge in Great Britain and struggle to change the media landscape, over the continent in West Germany - once a stronghold of public broadcasting - changes have been going on for six years now as private radio stations and TV networks establish themselves. Hopes are up for a new goldrush, with publishing firms, film companies and press tzars spending millions

Allied controlled newspaper and radio stations of post-war Germany. During the years of denazification and reconstruction, broadcasting corporations were established as *oeffentlich-rechtliche Anstalten*, (public institutions, supposedly independent of the federal government and the administration in the Laender). The work of the new networks is controlled by *Rundfunkraeten*, (control councils, which are also responsible for electing the directors of the new radio stations).

jectivity and, above all, *Ausgewogenheit* - a balance of opinion. In principle, programmes should be a weighted reflection of the vast range of opinions in West German society.

Political parties, left, right and centre, sought to influence the powerful instrument of media. Attempts to control the media in the 50's is now carried

What seemed at first a pathetic mudslinging campaign, soon gained momentum. By 1978, most of the eleven public network directors had CDU affiliations, while most of the control councils were dominated by conservatives and their media allies. Yet the issue of leftist radicalism among broadcasting journalists is still a potent rallying cry for the CDU, who have taken further actions by demanding the existence of private radios and television networks which will supposedly guarantee *Ausgewogenheit* or balance of opinion. The radios and networks set up will be run by the predominantly right-wing press trusts.

Creating facts

In 1981, West Germany had frequencies for only two nationwide and some regional public TV channels available. The emergence of new cable networks created opportunities for private

networks have degenerated into cheap soap opera serials, music videos, and of course, sex. In fact, sex seems to be a major part of their marketing strategy with the plethora of late night pseudo soft porn films and mindless therapy from self-appointed experts on sex. A large bulk of the money goes into sports coverage. The Cologne based network *RTL plus*, jointly owned by a big Luxembourg media company and publishing giant *Bertelsmann* recently spent millions buying television rights for all football events in the West German *Bundesliga*. Hamburg's *SAT 1*, controlled by *Axel Springer Verlag* (notorious for *Bild-Zeitung*, West Germany's own "Sun") bought the TV rights for tennis from the Flushing Meadow courts. The *Rupert Murdoch* revolution has also infiltrated German media, by way of the takeover of *Eureka TV* after the failure of his London-based *Skychannel*.

On the outside, public networks have attempted to maintain a disinterested facade against the new competitors yet are increasingly feeling the heat. Daily viewing figures provided by two West German research institutes show the steadily growing success of the "privates". In turn, ARD and ZDF have retaliated with an armoury of game show, sports coverage (the Olympics filled the screens day and night), and an immense supply of feature films.

Public networks still have the advantage in that they enjoy transmissions all over Germany, whereas private TV stations can only be received through cable television. Thanks to the CDU's cable policy, nearly 40% of West Germany's household have a cable connection, although only about 20% actually use it. In densely populated cities like Munich and Berlin, SAT 1 and RTL plus have

The radical changes in West German media as private broadcasting infiltrates the airwaves

of Deutschmarks on programmes, technical equipment and wages to get the biggest slice of the ratings cake.

In the end, the fight for more listeners and viewers is a struggle for more advertising money - the market for TV commercials alone had a turnover of 1.46 million Deutschmarks (about £460 million) in 1985 and is expected to double up to the early 90's. The two public TV networks ARD and ZDF now face a horde of private competitors: Four nationwide German TV networks (SAT 1, RTL plus, Tele 5 and Eureka TV) plus two British (Murdoch's Skychannel and ITN's Superchannel) and one French channel.

On the radio airwaves, the race is on as well, the prime acquisitions being the public radio networks, which are run by the members of the ARD. This is an association of nine regional broadcasting corporations in the West German Laender (states), which provide three to four radio programmes each (similar to Radio 1-4 in Great Britain). These radio networks, having enjoyed a monopoly for about 40 years, now face the challenge of about 125 local and regional private stations scattered all over West Germany. The roots of this expansion can be traced to the period before the emergence of the Federal Republic of Germany . . .

Once upon a time

Broadcasting in Germany has a tradition of government control, from the 1920s of Goebbels and his ministry of propaganda to the

The journalistic aims: objectivity, liberty, independence, critical faculty - were relatively new buzzwords for German listeners after 12 years of dictatorship and propaganda. Public broadcasting in its West German form is thus a product of denazification.

The system seems to work, as right-wing Chancellor Konrad Adenauer came to realize. Outraged by radio journalists' critical comments on his work, he commissioned a report on how to deal with the new broadcasting corporations. In 1952, with democracy still in its infancy, Adenauer's party, the Christian Democratic Union CDU edited a secret pamphlet with the Goebbels-style title "mass guidance in democracy". The main statement: the government should have a strong influence on public broadcasting corporations or have a radio station of its own. Fortunately, several attempts to intimidate radio directors failed.

With television booming in the 1960s, Adenauer ordered the creation of *German Television Ltd.*, to be jointly owned by the Federal Government and the Laender governments, but this ran into opposition from Laender prime ministers. According to the West German constitution, legislation on broadcasting will always be under the aegis of the eleven West German Laender. In 1961 the prime ministers took Adenauer to the Federal Constitutional Court, which ruled that *German Television Ltd.* was illegal. The judges reaffirmed the principles of *Staatsfreiheit* (no direct links to government) on public broadcasting, independence, ob-

jectivity and, above all, *Ausgewogenheit* - a balance of opinion. In principle, programmes should be a weighted reflection of the vast range of opinions in West German society.

Political parties, left, right and centre, sought to influence the powerful instrument of media. Attempts to control the media in the 50's is now carried

out to an even larger extent. The parties actively court journalists in the networks, placing them in influential positions. More importantly, they have attempted to infiltrate the control councils. The general polarisation of political life in the frenetic 60's spread to the control councils. Informal "circles of friends", supporting the left or the right, established themselves in the control councils. Several broadcasting corporations became notoriously identified with "red" or "black" (the German conservatives).

At the dawn of private broadcasting seven years ago, the only remarkable thing was a stunning amateurism.

Threatened by the success of television commercials and a slump in newspaper advertisement, the right wing press are taking the initiative in the control of media by demanding the right to run radio and TV stations. However, West German judges have referred to the ruling of the Federal Constitutional Court. The CDU, out of power and low in morale in 1976, began a campaign in the right wing press against the *Rotfunk* (red radios) blaming them for their staggering electoral defeats.

The new TV networks have degenerated into cheap soap opera serials, music videos, and of course, sex.

the ability to broadcast from land, yet their ratings are still behind the public networks performance. As yet, no private TV network has made any substantial profits.

On the other side of the airwaves, private radio stations have emerged stronger, both in terms of profits and audience, after years of heavy losses resulting in the takeover of the smaller stations. For them, the buck starts here.

by Tim Weber

Measure for Measure

Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, first performed in 1604, is being staged at the Barbican in a new and ambitious production which highlights all the play's cynicism and black humour. The Vienna of the play has been modernised, and is now complete with jackbooted policemen and New Wave streetboys.

Thematically the play re-

volves around the fight for justice in the face of oppression and misrule. The Duke of Vienna is leaving the city and hands over power to his deputy Angelo, with the words "Moral-

ity and mercy in Vienna live in thy tongue." Although an honest deputy, Angelo proves at once to be a hypocritical and despotic ruler. He soon convicts Claudio, a young gentleman of the city, of sexual immorality and Isabella, Claudio's pious sister, tries to save him but has no luck until she is helped by the Duke who, anxious to see "if power changes purpose," has remained in the city disguised as a friar to observe how Angelo will rule. He now pits himself against the former deputy and the latter's plan to execute Claudio. After many comic scenes and much confusion Claudio is saved and Angelo exposed. The Duke resumes power with Isabella's hand in marriage.

Although justice triumphs in the end, we are left with unpleasant sensations of how selfish, and therefore cruel, Shakespeare's characters are. Angelo's conversion to despotism appears an inevitable result of power, and he is given no soliloquy to explain his switch in temperament. Isabella, the

heroine of the play, has very definite limits as to how far she will go to save her brother. Underlying and stressing these characteristics is the depiction of Vienna as a hotbed of prostitution and sex. Yet it is the scenes involving the seedy characters of this underworld that provide the play with its boisterous humour. Most notable are Pompey (Phil Daniels), a clown and a "bawd," and the wonderfully arrogant and deceitful Lucio (Alex Jennings). Of the other actors Roger Allam as the Duke seems uncertain of his lines, but the bull-necked John Shrapnel is perfect as Angelo. The play flows well and is directed with an impressive eye for detail. It is notable that both Claudio and Isabella, the two main victims of Angelo's abuse of power, are both played by black actors.

Nick Woodrow

The RSC production of *Measure for Measure* is presently playing at the Barbican.



Norman Adams: Colour chart of a way

This exhibition of recent oils and watercolours traces the evolution of Adams' paintings since 1977. Already well established as a painter, Adams has been recognised as a valuable contributor to the world of British 20th century art since the early 1950s. Although he has always worked from nature, his talent has developed from early monochromatic, mechanistic paintings to a more passionate and individual use of colour and paint application. From such natural sources Norman Adams evolves his own personal imagery which he uses to express his perception of forces, energies and rhythms inherent in the natural environment, which are also analogous to those generally associated with human experiences. Increasingly he has also turned to religious themes, which are in great contrast to his early landscapes.

The exhibition culminates in two of Adams' most ambitious paintings. In the first, "Dance of Life", Adams manages to trace the course of life with the use of bright shapes and human imagery. The second, "Soul's Journey", is arguably his most challenging work. It depicts the soul leaving the body of a dying man and is a mirage of colours, having an almost hallucinogenic effect on the observer. Norman Adams' paintings make up one of the most exciting and thought-provoking exhibitions I have seen in a long time, and for anyone with an interest in modern 20th century art - it is a must.

Fiona Hinton

Norman Adams: Colour Chart of a Way opened on October 19th at the Royal Academy.



Ludwig van Cooper; not quite Beethoven

In June 1827, The Royal Philharmonic Society gave £100 to a very sick and bankrupt composer, who promised to present them with a symphony, "sketches for which are already in my desk." He died eight days later.

He left notes that were virtually indecipherable. 161 years later, an "artist's impression" of what the first movement of *Beethoven's Xth Symphony* may have sounded like premiered at the Royal Festival Hall.

From the first bar, it was very obviously Beethoven. But the ecstasy of hearing a Beethoven exposition that was totally new to both myself and the rest of the world soon gave way to a feeling that this was more of a parody than a reconstruction. The stylistic devices were so frequent that they seemed like clichés: spot the frequent dynamic changes, spot the familiar pizzicato; that descending "tum ti tum ti tum" in the strings comes straight from the last movement of the fifth; and you cannot fool me with that slow bit - I've played it before myself - second movement, Sonata Pathétique: different theme, same treatment.

Whilst it could not be denied that this was a Beethoven, it was a very inferior one. His works were always inspired, with surprising twists, pushing back the boundaries of contemporary music. In constructing the movement from thematic scraps, Dr Barry Cooper had the choice between writing in the style of Beethoven's completed works, or trying to extrapolate how he would have progressed. The latter is clearly unacceptable, but the former is highly unsatisfactory. Beethoven never wrote anything that was merely

being what has never been before. This is what is missing - one cannot reconstruct the breathlessness of a tumultuous river with still water.

Dr Cooper referred to it as an "artist's impression". I think it is more the impression of a



pleasant; unless it was new stylistically as well as thematically, it was not worth writing. That the themes are Beethoven's is really of little consequence - the essence of Beethoven was never the theme, nor the stylistic devices, but the unexpected: Beethoven is never more himself than when he is

graphic designer.

Tony Maggs

Dr Barry Cooper's version of Beethoven's incomplete 10th symphony was given its world premiere at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday October 19th.

Of books and Booker



At the last hurdle, Catherine Hogg takes a look at the final runners for the Booker Prize

Tomorrow night, at the Guildhall dinner, the winner of the 20th Booker Prize will be announced. Established through a partnership between Booker McConnell and the Publisher's Association, the prize has become the most eminent for which a fiction writer can compete. Any British publisher may nominate up to three books published this year, provided that the author is of British or Commonwealth status. A management committee consisting of publishers, librarians and authors, chooses the judges from a broad spectrum: this year the panel includes two literary editors, a film critic, a novelist and a politician.

It is a puzzle that the prize has become so highly acclaimed. The money it offers (£15,000) is not the largest purse for a fiction award. However, its public profile is high: since 1981 the presentation has been televised, and the ceremony is always preceded by extensive media coverage. Part of its appeal is the controversy that has often accompanied the judges' final decision.

The shortlist this year contains no surprises. Two of the six authors are previous winners (Rushdie and Fitzgerald), and two others have been here before (Carey and Lodge). The final two (Chatwin and Warner) are already well known, with books such as 'Songlines' and 'The Skating Party' to their credit.

together through necessity while on a boat travelling from England to Australia, since both are gamblers – the one obsessive, the other compulsive – and must feed their addiction. And so begins a tale which is above all a love story, culminating in the construction of a glass church as a monument to their passion.

'Illywacker' established Peter Carey as one of the most exciting and dynamic authors writing today. In 'Oscar and Lucinda' he has managed to employ his talents to create an altogether funnier, crazier, and more moving book than his last. His writing is extraordinarily diverse, with light and witty dialogue interlaced with beautiful, descriptive prose. He also possesses an awesome mastery of time and place, taking us to small villages for a few brief hours and then conveying us across continents for many years. We become willing accomplices, suspending disbelief in the face of his wacky notions. In his imagination, he has already meticulously constructed every piece of his church, and is standing beside us as we watch it grow. All this and much more has enabled him to create a book that engulfs your very existence, so that you eagerly anticipate the turn of every page for its revelations about your companions.

tale, and to write a book about it. 'The Lost Father' is her book within a book and, as Anna relates the history of her dynasty, we observe Anna.

To superimpose two books successfully is an immensely difficult task, but one which Marina Warner has achieved with distinction. Her writing is essentially descriptive: events may not be tremendously exciting, but then life itself is rarely as dramatic as other authors would like us to think. Her observations of those little things which keep life ticking over are delicately recorded, but the tone changes when she deals with physical sensation – and this jars. A deliberate effect? I wonder. The reader must be in a particular mood to appreciate her work: it is easy to become irritated with an illustrative approach which a snail would have little trouble keeping pace with. Despite this, she has created a complex work, which would probably benefit from more than one read.

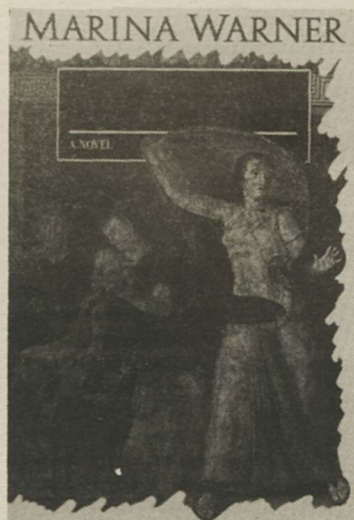
Nothing I say could do justice to the admiration I feel for David Lodge. He never fails to entertain – brilliantly observing all around him, and evoking it on paper with great humour combined with wicked perceptiveness. He feeds off all our prejudices, picking them out one by one, until we feel utterly ashamed and exposed, only able to take consolation from a conviction that surely we can't be the only ones to feel like this. As I attacked Salman Rushdie for not reaching a wide audience, I can praise David Lodge for bringing pleasure to so many. However much analysis is applied to his books, they will stand the test and, in addition, may be read again and again with enjoyment.

into numerous little diversions. These demonstrate Chatwin's extensive expertise as an art specialist, and allow us to share in Utz's passion. His flair for travel writing, already conclusively demonstrated in other books, enables him to convey beautifully the atmosphere of Utz's Prague. The book is a demanding read, but it is immensely satisfying in its aura of calm sensitivity.



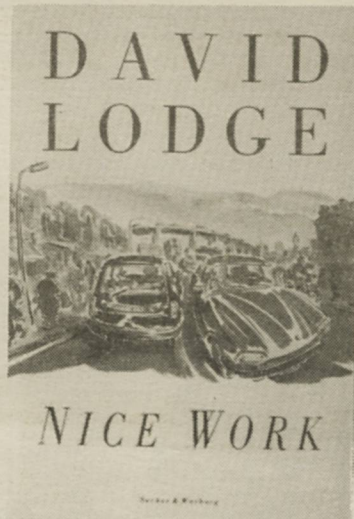
Peter Carey:
Oscar and Lucinda (Faber)

It all begins with a Christmas pudding. Without the pudding (only about two inches in diameter – a small thing to be responsible for such a train of events), the lives of Oscar and Lucinda would not have been as they are. They are drawn



Marina Warner:
The Lost Father (Chatto Windus)

The family believed that Davide Pittagora died as the result of a duel defending his sisters' honour, when a lead bullet lodged in his brain, dispensing tiny shots of poison which eventually caused death. His grand-daughter Anna resolves to discover the truth surrounding this mysterious



David Lodge:
Nice Work (Seckes Wasburg)

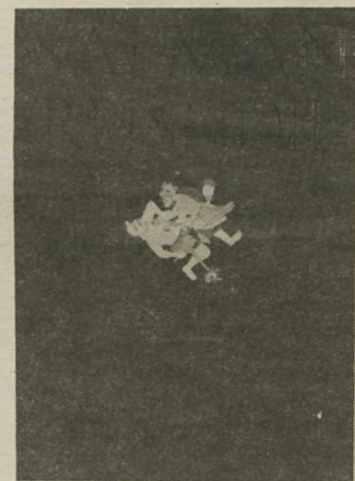
It's 1986, and we have returned to Rummidge – familiar to readers of 'Small World' – a northern industrial conurbation modelled on Birmingham. Bic Wilcox (a macho, money-oriented industrialist) and Robyn Penrose (a feminist, left-wing lecturer at the 'university') meet under the auspices of 'Industry Year'. The only things they share are a deep suspicion of all that the other stands for, and the survival instinct necessary in a Thatcherite Britain of cuts and unemployment. Sparks fly. But contrary to first appearances, there are many pleasures to be had from their association...



Bruce Chatwin:
Utz (Jonathon Cape)

'Utz' is a small novel about the life of a porcelain collector and also of his collection. At an early age, Utz acquires his first piece, the Harlequin: a trickster who outwits everyone and turns every situation to his advantage. This tiny figure awakens his owner's love of porcelain and serves as a catalyst for the collection but, more importantly, it provides him with a role model: Utz adopts the Harlequin's chameleon philosophy, which ensures his survival in the oppressive atmosphere of a Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia. His passion becomes his reality; the outside world serves only to provide his beloved pieces. However, these soon prevent his normal functioning and become a barrier to freedom and love.

Bruce Chatwin is a highly intellectual writer. His narrative is criss-crossed by a tiny maze of informative pathways, which lead us from the main storyline



Salman Rushdie:
The Satanic Verses (Viking)

In 1981, Salman Rushdie won the Booker Prize with 'Midnight's Children'; this choice was highly acclaimed in some quarters, but in others it was received with dismay. 'Satanic Verses' has already provoked as much controversy. I would like to be able to tell you that I have read it, but I must confess that I gave up my attempt after the first fifty pages, which I considered unreadable. At first, this failing gave rise to worries about an inadequate intellect but, since then, I have talked to many others about Rushdie's writing and it would seem that I am certainly not alone in my difficulties. The Indian government and The World Assembly of Muslim Youth are but two of his harshest critics but, I have to say, for rather different reasons from mine.

The Satanic Verses were supposed to have been excised from the Koran for their unsuitable content. As far as I can make out (and here I must rely on others more persevering than myself), Rushdie has attached great significance to the content of these verses, using them as his starting point for a novel about the interplay between good and evil. Muslims the world over have, somewhat understandably, taken great exception to this, and the concept of artistic licence is not thought to be sufficient justification. Technically, Rushdie is un-

doubtedly a master, taking risks and grappling with huge moral dilemmas. This, however, is not enough: a true author will reach vast sections of the general public in varying degrees of depth, and I find it difficult to admire someone who, with such pretentiousness, creates something that for many is completely unintelligible.

Penelope Fitzgerald: The Beginning of Spring (Collins)

In the middle of a freezing Russian winter in 1913, Frank's wife caught a train back to their native England. She left without any warning or explanation. This is the story of a man trying to piece things back together again. He has troubles enough trying to breathe life into the ailing printing business he has inherited from his expatriate father. Now, in addition, domestic anxieties demand his attention - should he hire a nanny, or go to the English Chaplaincy for assistance? meanwhile, the begin-



ning of spring brings with it another event which will change the course of his life.

The hallmark of a true artist lies in the exercise of singular skills in a seemingly effortless fashion. This is demonstrated by Penelope Fitzgerald. Her writing flows simply and easily, but within each minute observation lie countless teasing questions. Eventually, we come to understand Frank's inadequacies as husband and individual, as well as the material reason for Nellie's departure. But we are left to unravel for ourselves the complexity of emotions that constitute these people, shaping their every action. Fitzgerald's accomplished skills place us in a vividly imagined Russia of 1913 - a Chekovian combination of extraordinary sadness and humorous optimism. The breadth of sympathy and imaginative power displayed in this writing cannot fail to move the reader.

In the face of such an impressive line-up can a 'winner' be conclusively picked? What qualities should such a book have, and how may they be quantified? The answers are a matter for personal interpretation. But traditionally a winner there must be, so is it possible even to hazard a guess? In its twenty year history no author has ever won the Booker Prize twice - so can we tentatively debar Rushdie and Fitzgerald? It would be a pleasure to see David Lodge recognised, but his writing may be considered too frivolous for the weight of this accolade. My hopes therefore lie with Carey and Fitzgerald and, given the reason for the latter's exclusion, maybe there is only one answer. Meanwhile it's a gamblers game, with Ladbroke's offering 9-4 on the favourite 'Nice Work'.



BIG

It is unfortunate that some moviegoers will be deterred from seeing *Big*, America's latest cinema export, because of the recent rash of now infamous body swapping movies. But this is much ado about nothing. All of the previous films were uniformly unentertaining. *Big* is different. Simply put, it is the most enjoyable movie of the year. It was a huge success this past summer in the US, solidifying Tom Hanks' standing as a bona fide Hollywood comedy star.

He plays a thirteen-year old boy named Josh Baskin, who deperately wants to grow up for all the usual reasons. During a particularly depressing trip to an amusement park, he stumbles upon an (unplugged) machine - called Zoltar - which asks him to make a wish. His fervent reply: "I wish I was big!" And lo, the next morning he wakes up with the body of Tom Hanks. Understandably confused and scared, he turns to his best friend, played masterfully throughout by real kid Jared Rushton, for help and advice. Soon Hanks is in nearby New York City, where he finds work at a toy company, and innocently works his way up the corporate ladder. Veteran character actor Robert Loggia plays the role of the father-figure company chairman, who sensing something special in Josh, guides him along from computer clerk to executive



product designer.

Elizabeth Perkins does a redeemable job as the adult love interest, unknowing of the truth, her character is amazed and touched by his child-like tenderness and kindness. John Heard is the evil NYC yuppie, competitive until it hurts, who can't stand Hanks for being so damn nice.

The whole movie hinges on Hanks' performance. He has to convince the audience that he is really a child in a man's body, rather than a goofy man who

never grew up. He comes through with flying colours. He has down pat the mannerisms and speech patterns, but he also brings to the role a perfect sense of bewonderment, so that we believe that all of the adult world conventions he faces are new experiences for him. To top it off he subtly allows his character to "grow" as the film progresses by deepening his voice, standing taller and so forth.

Director Penny Marshall, previously known to American au-

diences for her horrible television show "Laverne and Shirley," rightly keeps the cameras focussed on Hanks and Rushton. She also allows them both the freedom to really be kids, while keeping the supporting cast tightly reined in, so as to ensure that the other characters never "figure out" the secret.

Jeffrey the Barman

Big was on general release from October 21st.

The Fruit Machine

The fairy tale is a deceptively simple art form. Unfortunately, it's a lost art. Postmodern culture is left with the forms from which the tales sprung, but without the sense of wonder which made them magical. We thoroughly understand the language, but have none of the subtlety which makes the parole of interest.

Case in point: Philip Saville's new film, *The Fruit Machine*, which bravely attempts to weave a grimy contemporary fairy tale but fails under the weight of its own ambitions.

The film follows the exploits and exploitation of two nascent-homosexual Liverpool teens. Eddie and Michael, played with considerable charm and finesse by Emile Charles and Tony Forsyth, are best friends who function as super-ego and id of an extended persona.

Michael is hauled in during a police raid, escapes, and persuades Eddie to flee his abusive father and overprotective mother. Intoxicated by their freedom, they flee to the Fruit Machine, a club for gays and transvestites, where they witness the gangland killing of the club's transvestite owner, played with heavy and thoroughly surreal charisma by Robbie Coltrane. They're seen by Echo, the narcissistic gay-chopping murderer, and the pursuit begins, through Liverpool, into the confidence and protection of a gay opera star, and finally to Brighton.

It's in Brighton that the film collapses, its dialectics too simple to bear the weight of its ambitions. Evil is too adult, brooding, and self-absorbed; good is too childlike, innocent, and trusting. Michael lives in a seedily menacing world, Eddie

lives in a warm, loving fantasy, but they're neither convincingly tied together nor held apart. By trying to merge the fairy tale with a sort of bleak realism, Saville and screenwriter Frank Clarke ('Letter to Brezhnev') accomplish little. The film begs for a directoral decision to emphasize either Eddie's fairy-tale life or Michael's street smarts. Sadly, the decision is never made.

Dick Pope's photography is beautiful without being self-conscious, and Hans Zimmer's score is suitably ethereal. Otherwise, however, the film wastes a pair of solid, moving performances by newcomers Charles and Forsyth, bogging down their engaging characters in a miasma of too-simple conflicts and fairy-tale cliches.

Rick G Karr

The Fruit Machine was on Cannon release from October 21st



House on Carroll Street

A thriller from the man who brought us *Bullitt*: who could resist it? Director Peter Yates whose recent film was of distinctly mediocre calibre, makes another foray into the genre. This time he tackles post-war Nazi-smuggling.

Kelly McGillis last seen in *Witness* is Emily Crane, a pictures editor with *Life* magazine. Jeff Daniels co-star of *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, plays FBI agent Cochran. Crane's troubles begin when she is hauled up in front of the US Senate hearings in New York. It is commie-hunting time in the bad old days of 1951, Senator Joe McCarthy and all that. His "crime" was to sign peace petitions and serve with a campaigning organisation. Courageously, she refuses to play ball with the committee when asked to name her radical associates.

What do you do when officials of whatever hue aim to do you down at every turn? Well Emily does not let it faze her. She gets up and at 'em and then falls slap bang into a conspiracy which would make past harrassment appear like the good old days.

All does not end in sweetness and light for Emily and Cochran. I for one would not have it any other way. Walter Bernstein has written a marvelously unpredictable script, based on his experiences as a blacklisted scriptwriter in the McCarthy era. The numerous plot rebounds keep the spectator guessing right up to the end, for Peter Yates it is a welcome return to form.

Jim Moody

The House on Carroll Street was on Cannon release from October 20th.

Sporting Round Up

Competitive sport began in earnest on Wednesday 12th October with all football teams in action. At New Malden, the 3rd XI stole whatever glory was going with an astonishing 11-0 victory over a hapless Guys Hospital 2nd XI. Alex Merrifield (who scored a hat-trick) and Tomas Schroerer (whose pinpoint crosses from the right wing caused palpitations in the visitors' defence) were notable amongst notables. Julius Gottlieb refereed the game, unable to play due to a broken toe-nail. Never has a game been adjudicated by a happier official. Meanwhile, the 1st XI, flagship of football at the LSE, scuttled themselves. A penalty conceded by Alistair McKenzie and a peculiar piece of improvisation by Simon Duncan (throwing the ball straight to an unmarked opponent) gave the QMC 1st XI two goals in reply to Richard Korab's earlier stike. The LSE 2nd XI won a hard fought match against the QMC 3rd XI, captain Robert Crampton scoring the only goal. Away from home the LSE 4th XI borrowed a goalkeeper from their opponents, the QMC 5th XI, and, determined to make their task even more difficult, conceded an own-goal after a mere twenty seconds – the only score of the match. Defeat was also at hand for the LSE 5th XI, who lost a titanic struggle against the St Marys 5th XI, 4-3.

The women's hockey teams embarked on their chase for honours on Saturday 15th October. The 1st XI began by fulfilling all pre-season expectations by hammering the Royal Free 4-1. Meanwhile, a sparkling performance by the LSE 2nd XI overcame Barts 2-0, a scoreline which greatly flatters the vanquished medics. In the world of rugby, LSE got off to a disastrous start, St Georges inflicting a double defeat on both the 1st XV, 24-12, and the 2nd XV, 28-4. Back again on the football field, once again the LSE 3rd XI lapped up the acclaim, routing the Middlesex Hospital 2nd XI 6-0. Another hat-trick hero was born in David Newbold. Also in form were the LSE 4th XI who defeated Kings College 6th XI 6-2, bouncing back from an inauspicious start to the season. The LSE 2nd XI were defeated 3-2 by Kings College Hospital, while the LSE 5th XI were awarded a walkover against KCH 3rd XI.

Rugby

LSE 'A' XV 32
CITY & GUILDS 1st XV 7

After a poor performance against St. Georges earlier in the week, the team was determined to do better, especially when City began singing victory songs before the match had even started. Good play from the forwards, notably Spencer Jeffery and Bill "Cheese" Eddelson enabled plenty of ball to reach the backs. Inspired runs from Richard "Animal" Moulton and little Moby set up several tries. All in all, it was very much a one-sided contest, try scorers including Mathies Westman, Jock Wills, Neil Cornelius, Gareth Roberts, and Ahmed Alawa (Club Captain).



Photo: Andrew Bayley

Football

LSE 1st XI 5
RHBNC 1st XI 1

The optimistic anticipation of the first game was fulfilled as the LSE strolled to a comfortable victory. "Wingnut" Davis poached the first goal in the opening minutes. Another Davis shot deflected off Simon Duncan's loins and looped over a stranded New College goalkeeper to give LSE a deserved 2-0 lead at half-time. Richard Korab and Crispin Leyser both played extremely well up front, and both scored well deserved goals in the second half. The lack of fitness began to show towards the end of the game and broming will be prescribed on Tuesday nights in future. Special mention must go to Dave Newbold who scored a 40 yard punt – but please do not do it again. It is hoped that LSE will be able to repeat such an impressive performance against Kent, who are expected to provide much tougher opposition.



LSE 4th XI 6
KINGS 6th XI 2

This was a rasping victory that will no doubt send shudders down the spines of fragile defences around other London colleges. LSE took an early lead through a comfortably executed shot from Chris McGuinness. This lead proved to be only temporary as LSE slumped into a mood of complacency. However, LSE exerted the upper hand through McKay's second long range effort, which had the Kings goalkeeper well beaten. Kings pulled one back on the stroke of half time, but the second half saw LSE's superior fitness and possession play rewarded. A Huddle-like free kick by Raphael provided the foundation for LSE's goal onslaught. The defence were worried little as the front men led by McKay enjoyed some needed shooting practice. McKay added three more to his earlier efforts, rounding off not only a fine personal performance for him, but also a very encouraging team effort.

Men's Hockey

LSE 2nd XI 4
KCH 2nd XI 4

The opening match of the closely followed LSE 2nd XI was certainly no disappointment. After single-handedly beating off the entire opposition, Glyn Walters made light work of darting up the pitch and slotting an opening goal that was quoted afterwards as being "the high point of the warm-up". With sound defending from Hector, and exemplary captaincy from the unfaulted Mike, it seemed as though the game would turn out to be a real cracker! Fifty minutes into the game Kings were leading 3-2, but fortunately the reliable Walters managed to score an almost unbelievable goal with a deflection off Dave French's stick. Yet Kings took the lead again and things were beginning to look grim for the wearying LSE team. But needless to say, the equalizer was scored in the final minute, with French body-checking the gutted Walters from the area and pinching the final goal. Congratulations go to Hector, "Man of the Match", French for his hat-trick and Walters for finding the pitch despite having received very dubious instructions on how to get there.

Women's Hockey

LSE 2nd XI 2
GOLDSMITHS 2nd XI 3

LSE played excellently against Goldsmiths and were more than a little unlucky not to win the game. This "friendly" soon turned into a good hard contest with LSE pushing themselves to the limit. If the teamwork becomes more cohesive, the team will undoubtedly have a successful season. On the right flank a good partnership emerged between Kathy Faucett and Menna, backed up by stic defence from Maxine – I'm a tomato really-(?Ed) and Angela -what do I do now – Jones. The two superb goals were scored by Kathy Faucett and Angharad. A missed penalty cost LSE the game, but at least the team now knows where practice is needed – don't we Maxine? All in all, it was an enjoyable game with good play from everyone, especially our new goalkeeper, Kathy – I've never played before – Moore.

Cricket

LSE 68-3
PACIFIC 69-2

LSE 65-4
ISH 67-4

The Indoor 6-A-Side League season started for LSE as disastrously as it had done last year. The team had good reason to be optimistic: a rejuvenated Jamal Sukhera, a less worried-looking Derek Smith, a not-so-political Nick Randall, a wristy Saeed Iqbal, a heavy cider-drinking Fixtures Secretary Chris Jefferies, and a slimline 1st XI captain Big Lonnie Lonergan. Yet the hopes were never realised as the team was defeated in both matches, first to Pacific and then to International Student House. Against Pacific, the team managed only 68 runs from their allotted 12 overs. Randall struck a solid 23, including one magnificent straight six, but the total was never enough, and despite excellent bowling from Sukhera and Iqbal, Pacific won in the penultimate over. Lonergan was solid behind the stumps as ever, and the crowd muttered under its breath "Why is this man so multi-talented?" Or were they muttering "Why is this man such a fool?" (Yes-Ed). Against ISH it was much the same story – very tight bowling and fielding not quite enough to make up for another dismal batting performance. Nevertheless, morale is still high and likely to remain so, and special thanks must go to the team's voluptuous scorer Kate Meyrick, who for yet another season puts up with the team's losing ways by smiling sweetly and being generally a very nice person (Mat, you're a creep-Ed).

Houghton Street Harry

Well, here I am at last, and I must start by apologising for being so late this term, but it took me so long to get registered. I kept turning up, and they kept telling me to come back another day. But finally here I am, so you needn't worry a minute longer. I hope you all had a good summer vacation; I picked up a fantastic summer job pushing drugs in South Korea. Made a fortune!

While on the subject of South Korea, the Olympic Games this year was truly a fantastic spectacle, and my own personal heroes just have to be Greg Louganis and Mark Rowland. Mark has come a long way since our drinking days down in the rickety pubs of Sussex. I bet Seb Coe would have won a medal, though with so many good Kenyan athletes around at the moment, it is unlikely he would have won a gold medal. Nevertheless, he would undoubtedly have performed better than Cram, both on and off the track.

Turning to football, England have still to discover the art of scoring goals, though if only Gary Lincker could wear one of his golden boots on his head, things might be different. I decided during the summer months that I would support West Ham this season. So far it seems my choice was not so astute, though I could have done worse – I could have chosen to support Brighton.

The England cricket team have at last been given a decent Christmas holiday, and so for once will not be able to lose a series. Apparently, the tour to India was called off, because the Indians complained that Graham Gooch had a great-great grand uncle whose third wife's step-father's brother was born in South Africa. Cricket may not be out of the news this winter, however, since as yet unconfirmed reports suggest that Mike Gatting and Sha-koor Rana may have possibly been involved indirectly in the assassination of President Zia.

Moving nearer to home, the LSE has had some superb sporting successes in the past year, notably the basketball team, who became European Champions, and the cricket team, who became ULU Champions. This year, under the captaincy of The Right Honourable Matthew Lord Lonnie-Crafty-Cockney-East-London-Aciced-Patrol-Whitechapel-Posse Lonergan, the cricketers promise to do just as well. That's about it for now, though I could write a few lines about the American Presidential Elections if you like. No? OK, maybe next week. Until then, take care. Harry.

Sports Brief

Rugby

1st XV v St Georges Hospital 12-28
2nd XV v St Georges Hospital 4-24

"A" XV v City & Guilds 32-7

Football

1st XI v QMC 1-2
2nd XI v QMC 1-0
3rd XI v Guys 1-0
4th XI v QMC 0-1
5th XI v St Marys 3-4

2nd XI v KCH 2-3
3rd XI v MXUC 6-0
4th XI v Kings 6-2

1st XI v RHBNC 5-1
2nd XI v RHBNC 8-1
3rd XI v SOP 0-0
5th XI v St Thomas' 2-3

Hockey

Men : 1st XI v Imperial 1-1
2nd XI v KCH 4-4

Women : 1st XI v Royal Free 4-1
2nd XI v Barts 2-0

1st XI v RHBNC 6-1
2nd XI v Goldsmiths 2-3